

**What is claimed is:**

1           1. A method for use in providing a Web team portal in a collaborative system  
2 comprising the steps of:

3           setting up a plurality of team members to collaboratively communicate;  
4           automatically collecting presence information of each of said members in said  
5 team;

6           automatically determining a current location for each team member; and  
7           dynamically displaying a visual representation having a plurality of display  
8 windows including at least said team members, said collected presence and location  
9 information, and a set of mechanisms for a team member to use in conjunction with said  
10 displayed presence and location information to initiate a prescribed mode of  
11 communicating with one or more others of said members in said team for a particular  
12 collaborative purpose.

1           2. The method as defined in claim 1 further including a step of a member of said  
2 team employing said displayed presence and location information and at least one of said  
3 mechanisms to initiate communication with one or more of others of said members in  
4 said team.

1           3. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein said prescribed mode of  
2 communicating includes at least either an asynchronous mode or a synchronous mode.

1           4. The method as defined in claim 3 wherein said step of dynamically displaying  
2 includes a step of automatically updating one or more of said plurality of display  
3 windows.

1           5. The method as defined in claim 4 wherein said steps of automatically  
2 collecting presence and location information include steps of automatically updating said  
3 presence and location information, respectively.

1           6. The method as defined in claim 5 wherein said presence information for a team  
2 member represents prescribed activities of said team member regarding one or more of  
3 predetermined instrumentalities and/or actions.

1           7. The method as defined in claim 6 wherein said set of mechanisms includes at  
2 least email, chat, voice call, or the like.

1           8. The method as defined in claim 6 further including a step of maintaining said  
2 collected and updated presence and location information and a step of notifying said  
3 participants of changes of status in said presence and location information for said  
4 members in said team.

1           9. The method as defined in claim 8 wherein said set of mechanisms further  
2 includes persistent chat and said step of initiating communication further includes  
3 initiating a persistent chat session.

1           10. Apparatus for use in providing a Web team portal in a collaborative system  
2 comprising:

3           means for setting up a plurality of team members to collaboratively communicate;  
4           means for automatically collecting presence information of each of said members  
5 in said team;

6           means for automatically determining a current location for each team member;  
7 and

8           means for dynamically displaying a visual representation having a plurality of  
9 display windows including at least said team members, said collected presence and  
10 location information, and a set of mechanisms for a team member to use in conjunction  
11 with said displayed presence and location information to initiate a prescribed mode of  
12 communicating with one or more others of said members in said team for a particular  
13 collaborative purpose.

1           11. The invention as defined in claim 10 further including a means for allowing a  
2 member of said team to employ said displayed presence and location information and at  
3 least one of said mechanisms to initiate communication with one or more of others of  
4 said members in said team.

1           12. The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said prescribed mode of  
2 communicating includes at least either an asynchronous mode or a synchronous mode.

1           13. The invention as defined in claim 12 wherein said means for dynamically  
2 displaying includes means for automatically updating one or more of said plurality of  
3 display windows.

1           14. The invention as defined in claim 13 wherein said means for automatically  
2 determining location information includes means for automatically updating said location  
3 information.

1           15. The invention as defined in claim 14 wherein said means for automatically  
2 collecting presence information includes means for automatically updating said presence  
3 information.

1           16. The invention as defined in claim 15 wherein said presence information for a  
2 participant represents prescribed activities of said participant regarding one or more of  
3 predetermined instrumentalities and/or actions.

1           17. The invention as defined in claim 16 wherein said set of mechanisms includes  
2 at least email, chat, voice call, or the like.

1           18. Apparatus for use in providing a Web team portal in a collaborative system  
2 comprising:

3           a call set up unit to set up a plurality of members in a team to collaboratively  
4 communicate;

5           a user agent unit to automatically collect presence and location information of  
6 each of said members in said team; and

7           a visual display unit to dynamically display a visual representation having a  
8 plurality of display windows including at least said team members, said collected  
9 presence and location information, and a set of mechanisms for a team member to use  
10 in conjunction with said displayed presence and location information to initiate a  
11 prescribed mode of communicating with one or more others of said members in said team  
12 for a particular collaborative purpose.

1           19. The invention as defined in claim 18 further including a device to allow a  
2 member of said team to employ said displayed presence and location information and at  
3 least one of said mechanisms to initiate communication with one or more of others of  
4 said members in said team.

1           20. The invention as defined in claim 18 wherein said prescribed mode of  
2 communicating includes at least either an asynchronous mode or a synchronous mode.

1           21. The invention as defined in claim 20 wherein said visual display unit  
2 automatically updates one or more of said plurality of display windows.

1           22. The invention as defined in claim 21 wherein said user agent unit  
2 automatically updates said presence and location information.

1           23. The invention as defined in claim 22 wherein said presence information for a  
2 participant represents prescribed activities of said participant regarding one or more of  
3 predetermined instrumentalities and/or actions.

1           24. The invention as defined in claim 23 wherein said set of mechanisms includes  
2 at least email, chat, voice call, or the like.

1           25. The invention as defined in claim 22 wherein said user agent unit further  
2 maintains said collected and updated presence and location information and notifies said  
3 participants of changes of status in said presence information for said participants in said  
4 group.

1           26. The invention as defined in claim 25 wherein said set of mechanisms further  
2 includes persistent chat and said step of initiating communication further includes  
3 initiating a persistent chat session.

1           27. The invention as defined in claim 26 wherein said set up unit communication  
2 further sets up third party calls.